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Sixth Meeting of the Conference of African
Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning

Kinshasa, Zaire, 17-24 March 1988

LC/NAIROBI

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/54

Implementation of the Second Phase Programme of the Decade

Operative para. 1

Reiterates the appeal made in its resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.84/39 to ECA as the lead agency of the Decade to discharge its responsibilities accordingly by:

(a) Continuing to assist African Governments to mobilize resources needed for the second phase programme;

Action taken: In 1986 ECA organized a co-financing meeting in Pointe Noire, Peoples Republic of Congo, for projects in the two transit corridors linking the landlocked countries Central African Republic and Chad to the ports of Douala and Pointe Noire. A full report was submitted to the 10th meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee of UNTACDA (IACC) in February 1988 in Lome. The two co-financing meetings which had been scheduled to be held in Bujumbura and Ouagadougou in 1987 for projects in transit corridors of Eastern Africa and West Africa respectively, had unavoidably to be postponed to 1988. There were, thus, no co-financing meetings in 1987.

(b) submitting periodic reports on the results of co-financing meetings involving the appropriate number of donors for certain regioinal projects and for projects in transit corridors;

Action taken: A report of the Pointe Nore co-financing meeting was made to the 10th IACC and through that body to the 6th Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

(c) intensifying efforts to initiate contacts with as many donors as possible;

Action taken: In the two-year period since the 5th Ministerial Conference, ECA made contacts with the following financial institutions and donor countries: World Bank, African Development Bank, Banque Ouest Africaine de Developpement, ECOWAS Fund, Banque de Developpement des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale, EDF, FAC, CCCE, Kuwait Fund, Islamic Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Belgium and France.

(d) co-ordinating the transport and communications programmes of subregional economic groupings to ensure their complementarity with those of other groupings;

Action taken: The co-ordination of subregional organizations is effected through ECA regular functions.

(e) providing technical backstopping and logistical support to efforts to promote projects concerning more than one country.

Action taken: ECA has continued to assist member States in their efforts to implement multi-country projects. this has been notably with respect to projects in transit corridors of landlocked countries, the Trans-African Highways network, the Regional African Satellite Communications System project and the PANAFTEL project.

Operative para 2:

Urges member States to:

(a) give regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations the needed support in order to achieve the established priorities of the Decade;

(b) pursue with all vigour the financing of their own projects and, to that effect, ensure that there is provision made for the local cost component of projects;

(c) furnish ECA and other agencies concerned with the necessary information on the financing and physical execution of their projects;

(d) actively co-operate with ECA and other organizations in organizing co-financing meetings for their projects;

(e) support co-operative efforts such as the harmonization of national legislation and multilateral transport and communications conventions and treaties;

(f) support efforts to facilitate the free flow of trade and travel among countries of the region.

Action taken: Member States have, in spite the current economic crisis facing the continent, continued to allocate some of their meagre resources to the development of transport and communications and to date 10 per cent of all the funding of the Decade projects is by African Governments themselves.

ECA obtained all the necessary support of the countries concerned for preparing for the first co-financing meeting held at Pointe Noire, Congo, in November 1986. Unfortunately, however, only the host country was able to attend the meeting.

Although the amount of information on the implementation of projects reaching ECA from the member States has increased, many countries are still failing to provide ECA with the necessary information.

Operative para 3:

Invites once again, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and African Intergovernmental Organizations to assist, within their respective areas of competence, Governments with the execution of the regional and subregional projects that have already been identified and, in that connection, to collaborate with ECA in collecting information on the financing and progress of these projects.

Action taken: The Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and African intergovernmental organizations continue to play their role in the execution of projects. Their activities are reported in the annual progress reports of 1986 and 1987.

Operative para 5 and 6

Express its appreciation to those donor countries that have provided bilateral experts to strengthen the UNTACDA Co-ordination Unit for their moral and material support.

Invites other donor countries and financial institutions to explore ways and means in which they can contribute to the further strengthening of the Unit to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

Action taken: During 1986 and 1987, ECA benefited from the contribution of the two experts provided by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and France. To date, no other country has provided the needed assistance.

Operative para 8

Requests the United Nations Development Programme, during its fourth Programming Cycle (1987-1991), to provide resources necessary for the realization of the development process begun during the Decade.

Action taken: The UNDP has allocated to ECA a sum of $5 million during the Fourth Programming Cycle for Decade projects.

Operative para 9:

Appeals to the General Assembly of the United Nations to allocate sufficient resources for organizing the sixth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning in 1988.

Action taken: No funds have been received from the General Assembly for organizing the Sixth Meeting of the conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/55

Implications of the Recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on UNTACDA

Operative para 2:

Adopts the following recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit:

(b) that ECA should prepare, in consultation with the regional and subregional organizations and the agencies of the United Nations system concerned, a draft medium- and long-term plan which clearly defines its role in research and conceptualization, fund-raising monitoring, evaluation, etc. and the activities to be undertaken by the various actors concerned after the end of the Decade and to submit such a plan to the next Conference of Ministers;

Action taken: ECA has prepared a draft medium and long-term plan defining its role as demanded by the resolution. The plan was considered by the tenth meeting of the IACC and is now before this meeting. It will be discussed under agenda item 4.

(c) that there should be a period of evaluation and analysis before a decision is taken on whether or not there will be a second Decade. In this connection, the period of evaluation should commence immediately and ECA secretariat is instructed to find the means for undertaking consultations during the current Decade in order to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the Decade;

Action taken: ECA undertook the in-depth evaluation called for with funds provided by UNDP. The evaluation report will be discussed under agenda item 4.

(d) that ECA, within the framework of a clearly defined mandate, in consultation with the regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations concerned, should:

(i) identify fundamental inter-State projects consistent with the overall objectives of the Decade and facilitate negotiations between States for the purpose of executing the projects;

(ii) organize fund-raiding activities on the basis of a list of major projects of regional, and particularly subregional; importance of universally recognized priority;

(iii) provide support to the various African subregional organizations and assist them in co-ordinating their transport and communications programme; and

(iv) seek a juridical framework for ways and means of financing and implementing inter-State projects, using existing intergovernemntal organizations or establishing "co-ordinating committees", so that the requests for financing presented by individual countries are planned and co-ordinated.

Action taken: Inter-state links providing landlocked countries access to the sea have been identified and co-financing meetings to solicit funding for these links have been planned. Regrettably, the two meetings scheduled for 1987 had to be postponed to 1988 so that only one meeting was held in 1986.

Operative para 3

Invites ECA to take necessary and urgent measures in order to increase the efficiency of its system of information collection for a better evaluation and follow-up of the Decade Programme.

Action taken: Data collection has improved due to the system of paid local consultants which was initiated in 1986. In addition, the Co-ordination Unit has also established a data base for assessing African transport and communications infrastructural development using the Wang computer purchased with funds provided by UNDP.

Operative para 4

Appeals to international and regional financial institutions, and in particular the African Development Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, to assist with an in-depth evaluation of the impact of the Decade programme.

Action taken: ADB, IBRD and UNDP were invited to assist ECA with the in-depth evaluation of the Decade and UNDP provided the financing.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/56

Implementation of the 1986/1987 Work Programme of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division

Action taken, nothing to report.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/57

Free Transfer of Airlines Funds

Action taken, nothing to report.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/58

Ratification of the Convention Establishing the African Air Tariff Conference

Operative para 1:

Requests ECA, the lead agency for the Decade, to continue to organize jointly with OAU, AFCAC and AFRAA, effective representation to secure the signature or ratification of the Convention establishing the African Air Tariff Conference.

Action taken: The Secretary-Generals of AFCAC and AFRAA visited Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria in September and November 1987 respectively for the purpose of soliciting signatures of the Convention. The matter, is receiving the serious attention of the two Governments. It was, regrettably, not possible to visit more countries in 1987 and it is hoped that this might be done in 1988.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/59

Implementation of the Work Programme of the Technical Committee on Air Transport in Africa

Operative para 4:

Requests:

(a) The Executive Secretary of ECA to include the work programme of the technical committee in the activities of ECA, and to seek the funds necessary for carrying out the activities of the technical committee;

(b) African airlines to provide free air tickets to the members of the technical committee whenever they have to travel in connection with activities of the committee.

Action taken: The work programme of the committee has been included in the activities of ECA and funds provided by UNDP for the UNTACDA Co-ordination Unit have been used for this purpose. These funds, however, will dry up when the Decade expires and the UNDP-funded Co-ordination Unit cease to exist.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/60

Co-ordinated Network of Aircraft Maintenance and Overhaul Centres in Africa

Operative para. 3 and 4:

Calls upon member States and their national airlines to participate actively in the work aimed at studying the possibility of establishing a co-ordinated network of aircraft maintenance and overhaul centres in Africa;

Invites member States to harmonize their policies on technical regulations in order to facilitate the implementation of their co-operation programme.

Action taken: AFCAC and ADB jointly obtained financing from Norway for the study on the establishment of a co-ordinated network of aircraft maintenance and overhaul centres in Africa. Two subregional meetings to consider the findings of the study were held in November 1986 and June/July 1987 for Central and West Africa and North Africa respectively. The study made recommendations on harmonization of Civil Aviation Licensing Procedures, subcontracting airport maintenance, areas of maintenance co-operation, financial and management aspects of co-operation and technical and operating aspects of co-operation.

Under the auspices of the PTA a study was undertaken for the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa and it identified existing centres that would be regionalized.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/61

Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Sea and the United Nations Convention on International Multimodal Transport of Goods

Operative para 2 and 3

Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to provide support to the African countries in the implementation of these conventions.

Calls on UNCTAD, African Intergovernmental Organizations and UNDP to provide support to the Economic Commission for Africa and the African countries in becoming contracting parties to these conventions.

Action taken: UNCTAD, under whose aegis the two Conventions were prepared, is actively involved in their implementation. (A report is awaited from UNCTAD)

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/62

Harmonization of measures for the full participation of African countries in maritime transport

It calls upon the Executive Secretary,

(i) to co-ordinate their efforts towards the achievements of the goals on maritime transport set out in the Decade Programme as well as those in the third United Nations Development Strategy.

Action taken:

(a) Establishment of a Ministerial Conference for Eastern and Southern African States in the field of Maritime Transport; An Intergovernmental African Experts meeting organized by ECA, took place in September 1987, and recommended to the Ministers in charge of marine transport in the subregion the establishment of such a body whose concern is to co-ordinate maritime transport developments among the countries;

(b) The states of the North African subregion have established, with assistance of ECA, a sub-committee on shipping for harmonizing maritime transport activities;

(c) ECA is now preparing in collaboration with UNCTAD an intergovernmental experts meeting prior to the review conference of the United Nations Convention on Code of Conduct for Liner Conference. Such a review will be an occasion for African countries to harmonize their views on the key conterversial areas of liner services legislations;

(d) ECA participated in the preparation of seminars on management of maritime transport and ports in sub-Saharan Africa with the World Bank to be organized in 1988 for all African maritime States. The main objective of the seminars is to make a significant contribution to the harmonious and efficient development of maritime transportation and ports in Africa, through a marked increase in decision making capability;

(e) ECA assisted the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA) in drafting terms of reference for the dredging consulting firm;

(f) ECA conducted a Regional Survey in 1986 on Manpower and Training Needs in all transport modes including shipping and ports. The study is being widely used by African maritime States at present;

(g) In October 1987 ECA organized an Intergovernmental meeting of Chief Executives and Senior Port Officials of African ports on the question of improvement of port productivity rates, a meeting that was attended by 15 African States and 10 United Nations specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations. The meeting helped to exchange views and ideas to improve port productivity rates in African ports;

(ii) to assist African Governments with the modernization and harmonization on maritime legislation.

Action taken:

ECA tried all its best throughout 1986 and 1987 to secure funding for the study and will continue to do so in 1988. As soon as funds will be available, ECA will carry out a study in view of modernizing and harmonizing African maritime legislations.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/63

Creation of Centres for Training, Consultancy and Research in Transport

Operative para 5:

Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to explore with ECA member States and intergovernmental agencies the early establishment of similar institutions which will serve the interests of othr subregions of Africa.

Action taken: ECA has learnt of previous efforts to establish a centre for West African States under the auspices of ECOWAS. ECA is in contact with ECOWAS with a view to seeing how the idea can be advanced.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/64

Telecommunications for Socio-Economic Development

Operative Para. 5:

Resolves further to invite the PANAFTEL Co-ordination Committee to convene the Conference of African Telecommunications Administrations to follow up, inter alia, on the work of the World Telecommunications Development Conference and adapt its recommendations to meet the priority needs of the region.

Action taken:

A Regional African Telecommunications Development Conference was convened in Tunisia, January 1987. The objective of the conference was to provide a forum for African Telecommunications Administrations, international, regional and other agencies concerned to review the progress of telecommunications development in Africa - causes and effects of success and failures, aspects needing revised/new approaches - so as to define achievable targets and strategies in line with the Arusha Declaration on World-Telecommunications in Africa towards the year 2000.

The Conference reviewed the telecommunications situation in Africa and agreed on strategies for development of telecommunications in Africa towards the year 2000. The outcome of the Conference was the adoption of far reaching resolutions and recommendations on the strategies for the development of African Telecommunications infrastructure.

Since the Tunis Conference a number of activities have been undertaken towards implementation of the resolutions and recommendations:

A meeting of African Telecommunications Traffic Managers was held in Addis Ababa, December, 1987, in which problems hindering the effective use of telecommunications were discussed and the participants were strongly urged to promote usage of intra-African telecommunications infrastructure effectively.

A High level Workshop/Seminar on Planning and Management of Broadcasting Systems was held in Nairobi, November, 1987, for Eastern African countries where the need for proper planning of systems and human resource development in Broadcasting were high-lighted.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/65

Regional African Satellite Communications System

Operative para. 9:

Requests the IACC-RASCOM to submit all progress and technical reports to the Interim Executive Committee (IEC), which is composed to senior telecommunications experts appointed by ministers responsible for telecommunications. The IEC will consider the reports and submit its recommendations to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning for appropriate decision.

Action taken: IEC has not yet been convened since the project has just started. IEC is supposed to be convened two times; at mid-term and at the end of the project. The first meeting of the IEC is expected to be held in July or August 1988.

Operative para. 10:

Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity to inform respectively the Conference of Ministers of ECA and the Council of Ministers of OAU on the progress of the implementation of this project.

Action taken: The 22nd session of the Commission (the Ministers of ECA) held in Addis Ababa in April 1987 was informed of the progress of implementation of the RASCOM project and the matter will be before the 23rd session in Niamey, Niger, in April 1988.

Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/66

Analysis of new projects submitted for inclusion in the second phase of the Decade programme by the bureau of 5th meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning

Operative para:

Decides that the bureau of the 5th meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, assisted by ECA secretariat, be empowered to analyse new projects that member States would submit for inclusion in the second phase of the Decade, bearing in mind the criteria laid down by the above-mentioned Cairo resolution.

Action taken: The 5th meeting of the Conference of Ministers set 30 July 1986 as the deadline for the receipt of new projects to be included in the second phase programme. By that date ECA had received 13 projects from Burkina Faso, three from Kenya and one from Sudan. The ECA secretariat analysed the projects for conformity with the guidelines laid down by the 3rd meeting of the Conference of Ministers in Cairo in 1983. All the projects were recommended for inclusion in the programme but because of their small number, ECA suggested to the Chairperson of the Bureau that there was no need to convene a meeting of the Bureau in order to endorse ECA's recommendation. The additional projects have now been published as an addendum to the Phase II programme of action.